



How to Participate in Parks for Pollinators 2020

1. **Look for as many pollinators and flowering plants as you can find for at least 15 minutes.** You can participate just once or as many times as you want all September long! Any pollinators and flowering plants you find in the Town of Garner will count towards the event.
2. **Take a digital picture of each pollinator you can find.** You can take multiple pictures of the same species to be thorough, but they should be one post. We've provided a species list for reference, so take a crack at identifying the creatures you find!
3. **All observations will be logged onto the platform iNaturalist.** Download the app on any smart phone to log your own observations as you go. All you have to do is upload the pictures. You don't have to identify the species if you don't know it; the experts on iNaturalist will help you! If you don't have access to the iNaturalist app, send all observation photos taken (along with when and where you took the photos) to wdpeducation@garnernc.gov when you're done so the "bug experts" at White Deer Park can identify and log them for you!

This event is entirely virtual, so you don't need to speak to anyone or fill out a participation form. However, we'd love to see or hear about anything interesting you find so don't feel shy about tagging or messaging us on social media!

*If you have any additional questions that haven't been answered by the info packet, visit the National Recreation and Park Association website: <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/parks4pollinators/>

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a BioBlitz?

An event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time to create a snapshot of an area's biodiversity.

How will this event be structured?

Our event is virtual and self-led, so make sure you prepare accordingly. We suggest you download the iNaturalist app and become familiar with it before you go on any outings. You can search for pollinators anywhere in Garner, including your own backyard, but if you're planning on leaving your house bring any gear that you may need, like water bottles and sun protection.

How does iNaturalist work?

It's easy! Take a picture of what you find, upload the picture to the app right where you took it (with location services on) and your observations will automatically be added to our project. If you'd like to follow the event's progress, go to projects on iNaturalist and search for Parks for Pollinators 2020: Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

How do I use the app?

[This video](#) is a great to share, it walks you through the simple process of taking a photo, IDing, adding detail, and sharing it to the iNaturalist site. (<https://vimeo.com/162581545>)

What do I take a picture of?

- Any insects or plants that are interesting to you and whatever you think you can get a pretty good close-up photograph of. What the project is looking for specifically are butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, ants, bees, wasps, bats, hummingbirds, and flowering plants.
- It is generally important to document invasive and exotic species as well as natives so don't worry too much about how "special" or "rare" a plant or animal is. You are trying to get a representative sample of the entire place, not just the best parts.
- Diversity is important, too, so look for things you personally haven't yet photographed.
- If you can, take several photographs of one object to show different features — bark, leaves, seeds, flowers, etc. Then take another of the whole plant. Sometimes this is the only way to make a definite ID.

Smartphone tips:

- Turn screen brightness up on a bright day to make sure your focus is good.
- Rest your "camera hand" on something else to steady it.
- Point at the screen to show where you want to focus. (Some newer phones will do this automatically.)